

Thursday, April 29, 2004

# the Almagest

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LSU SHREVEPORT

Volume 45, Issue 11

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## WEEKLY WEATHER

Today:	
Hi: 77	
Lo: 65	
Friday:	Hi: 77 Lo: 52
Scat'd T'storms	
Saturday:	Hi: 71 Lo: 51
Mostly Cloudy	
Sunday:	Hi: 75 Lo: 51
Partly Cloudy	
Monday:	Hi: 81 Lo: 59
Partly Cloudy	
Tuesday:	Hi: 84 Lo: 61
Mostly Sunny	
Wednesday:	Hi: 84 Lo: 62
Partly Cloudy	

## Psychedelic Casino ends semester activities



Psychedelic Casino is a new campus event, sponsored by SAB and Rec Sports.

BY LAURIE DI IULIO

Tonight's Psychedelic Casino will give students an opportunity to try their luck at gambling and go home with great prizes. The event, which is being sponsored jointly by Student Activities Board and Rec Sports, is free for students and will feature several casino games and prizes for the lucky winners.

The University Center Ballroom will be transformed into a '70s psychedelic casino, and will feature black lights, an oxygen bar, slot machines

and tables for black jack, poker and roulette. Employees from TjohnE, the gaming company providing the tables and equipment, and LSUS student workers will serve as dealers for the event.

SEE PSYCHEDELIC PAGE 6

## Sabbaticals can help teachers gain insight

BY PRISCILLA TURNER &

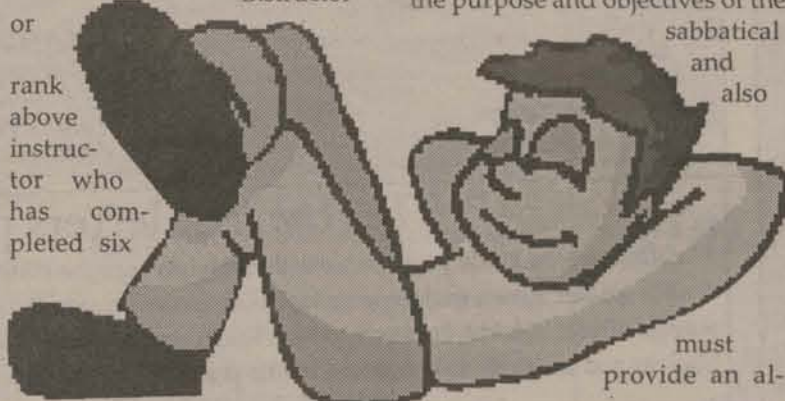
NIKKI MORA

Professors are just like students—sometimes they get burned out and tired of college. A sabbatical, a paid leave granted to a professor in order to complete research or study which will "enable them to increase their professional efficiency and usefulness to the system," can help change their perspective about their field of teaching.

According to the LSU System regulations, a sabbatical may be granted to a "full-time instructor

years of service on the campus without having received paid leave." During a sabbatical, an instructor will receive one-half pay or six months full pay if they are employed for 12 months. If they are employed for nine months, they can receive one-half pay or four and a half months' pay.

The instructor who petitions for a sabbatical must complete a Sabbatical/Education Leave Request Form. The form contains a series of questions that a proposal has to answer. The professor must include information about the purpose and objectives of the sabbatical and also



SEE SABBATICALS PAGE 6

BY ERIC PULSIFER

Dead Week was the hot issue at the SGA's weekly meeting last Thursday, April 22.

The newly-elected SGA discussed the Faculty Senate's recent elimination of Dead Week, the week before final exams at the end of each semester.

Currently, teachers at LSUS cannot give any exams or assign final projects not listed on the class syllabus during Dead Week so students can focus on studying for their finals, but the Faculty Senate recently decided to do away with the policy.

SGA President Lacey Spencer encouraged SGA members to discuss the matter with students and faculty. "Talk to students," said Spencer.

"See what the issues are and bring them to SGA so we can do something about it," she said.

Spencer said that even if the week stays scrapped by the Faculty Senate, this semester's Dead Week—which is next week—must still be observed since any change in policy can't take place until fall at the earliest.

Also during the meeting, eight new senators-at-large and four new college senators were sworn in.

The new senators range from first-time freshmen to seasoned upperclassmen.

Spencer said new business will be discussed as usual at today's SGA common hour meeting now that the new senators have been given a chance to get accustomed with meeting rules.

SGA



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**The Almagest**  
Bronson Hall, Room 344

Suzanne Bright, faculty adviser

## Corrections

In last week's issue, we ran an article that said the AMACC/Career Center fashion show was last Thursday, April 22. However, it will be held today during common hour.

## Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. The Almagest seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. The Almagest reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

The Almagest is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

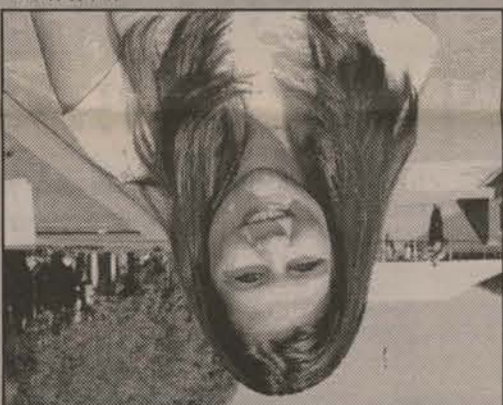
## CAMPUS QUOTES

"WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU ARE GOING TO DO WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR LAST FINAL?"



"I'm going straight to the Phillin' Station, to get ready for summer classes"

Brian Anderson  
Junior, Exercise Science



"Go to sleep."

Ally Thomason  
Sophomore, Psychology



"Drink."

Annie Dupuis  
Sophomore, Biology



"Go play golf!"

Trung Nguyen  
Senior, Pre-Physical Therapy



"Get a drink..."

Creston Heard  
Sophomore, Business Administration & Management



"Pack up my clothes and get ready to go home."

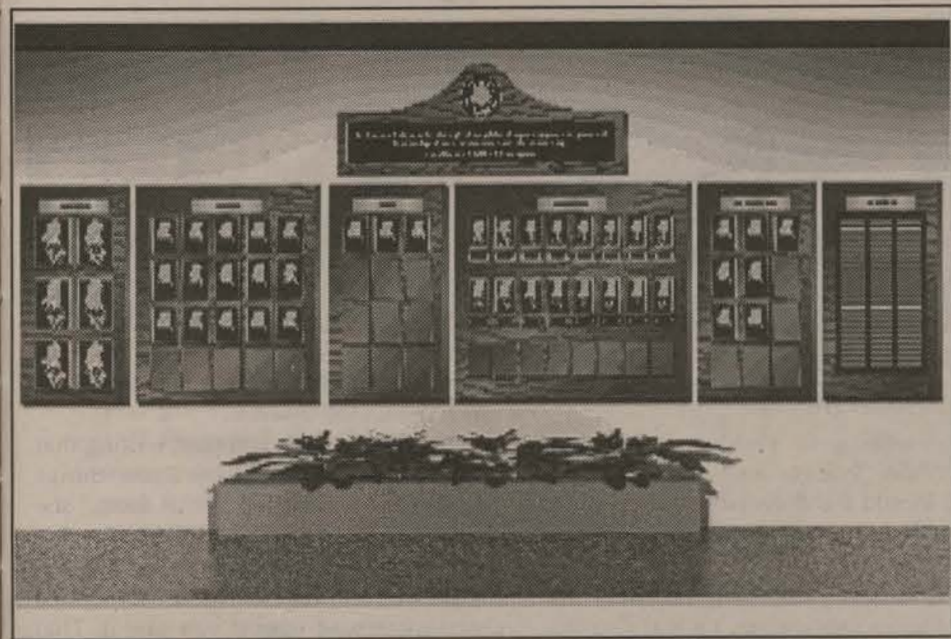
Tenika Washington  
Freshman, Nursing

## The Almagest letters policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed. The Almagest reserves the right to edit all letters.



## Campus recognizes donors, past leaders with plaque



COURTESY OF LSUS MEDIA SERVICES

**The Wall of Honor will be presented in the Administration Building next fall.**

BY SARA SULLIVAN

LSUS will soon begin a tradition many area universities have had around for years.

Next fall, a wall of honor commemorating dedicated supporters and monetary contributors of LSUS will be presented in the Administration Building.

"It is important that the university recognize our donors who make it possible for us to accomplish those things which the state is unable to fund," said Chancellor Vincent Marsala.

Not only will the wall of honor recognize significant donors of LSUS but also past chancellors of LSUS.

The following categories were selected for the wall after a review of potential honorees: chancellors, past foundation board presidents, endowed chairs, endowed professorships, endowed scholarships and Pilot of the Year award recipients.

Glenda Erwin, associate vice chancellor of university development, said the wall of honor is a portable display. A portable design will make it possible to add a group of honorees or to move the wall if there is ever a more appropriate place to put it, she said.

"A future consideration for the wall of honor will include distinguished alumni of LSUS," said Erwin.

She explained that the wall of honor will give people an incentive to want to do things for the university, especially the alumni.

The initial location of the wall of honor will be in the hallway leading to

the chancellor's office in the Administration Building.

Upon approval by the LSUS Foundation, the wall of honor was completed by funds donated through the RiverBend Revue, a benefit for the LSUS Foundation and the American Humanities Program for Non-Profit Management, which raises funds to provide scholarships for undergraduate certificates and master's degrees in human services.

University administrators are excited about completing the project because it has been a long-needed public exhibition displaying the university's gratitude.

"I think it's a great idea, because it allows us to honor those that have provided significant support to the university," said Stuart Parkerson, director of annual support.

"Many students might not be aware that these people have supported the university," he said.

Portraits of the honorees will be represented by bronze sketches. Some of these portraits had already been sketched last year for the Annual President's Dinner, an event honoring LSUS Foundation members.

"The wall of honor will fulfill a basic philosophy of publicly saying 'thank you' and giving recognition," said Erwin. "That's not always an easy thing to do."

The university hopes that the wall of honor is something that everyone—faculty, staff and students—will all be proud of and interested in.

## Faculty Senate undecided on Dead Week, Fall Break

BY BRANDI REGISTER

The Faculty Senate met again on Thursday, April 15, to re-think Dead Week, which they deleted from the school calendar during their last meeting.

"I think that the senate's original vote on doing away with Dead Week was largely due to a lack of communication," said Dr. Lynn Walford, an associate professor of foreign language.

"SGA president Brad Craft was going to gather feedback from students and report back to the Faculty Senate. He didn't do so, and when the vote

came up, I and several other senators thought it wasn't a burning issue among students... At the last meeting we found out that it definitely was an issue, so we decided to revisit it."

Other Faculty Senate members said they feel that Dead Week should not be reinstated, because it was never observed by all faculty and students anyway.

"The purpose of Dead Week was to ensure that no special events took place so students would not be distracted," said Dr. Rebecca Nolan, a professor of psychology. "Sports teams and social organizations were having meetings, and term papers and tests were being given."

The Faculty Senate voted to revisit the issue, but as of now, Dead

Week will not be observed in the fall. However, Dead Week is still in place for this semester.

The Faculty Senate also discussed a tuition break for employees of the LSU system and their families.

However, no decision can be quickly made by the LSUS senate; the issue will be mostly decided by the decision makers at LSU Baton Rouge.

"It would be a good thing for LSUS," said Carl Smolinski, an associate professor of accounting.

"The tuition break would encourage po-

tential faculty with children to come to LSUS."

Walford said she also believed the tuition break would be a positive move for the LSU system.

"Not only would it be a much-needed perk for our poorly paid, hardworking employees, but it would also be a good recruiting tool for LSUS," said Walford.

The Faculty Senate is still deciding what to do with the Thanksgiving and Fall breaks.

The majority of faculty and students are in favor of doing away with the two day Fall Break, and extending Thanksgiving break to a full week.

Final decisions on all of these issues will be made next semester, when the Faculty Senate reconvenes.

*"The purpose of Dead Week was to ensure that no special events took place so students would not be distracted. Sports teams and social organizations were having meetings, and term papers and tests were being given."*

*-Dr. Rebecca Nolan  
Professor of Psychology*

**We want your feedback**  
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or call 797-5328



## Christian organizations combine for concert



BY NIKKI MORA

The religious organizations on campus banded together to put on the "Not-so-Common Hour" for LSUS students last Thursday.

Chi Alpha, the Catholic Student Union and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries worked together to bring the Christian band Common Ground from Ruston to LSUS. Members of the band put on an acoustic concert on the UC mall during common hour.

Joshua Grisham, president of the BCM, said students attending the show got free nachos, soft drinks and other snacks. The event was co-funded by the individual organizations and the SOC.

Sarah Bradeen, secretary of the CSU, said she thought the event was a success because so many people showed up.

"We ran out of nachos, drinks and

snacks," said Bradeen. "If everyone wanted to try and do this again, I would definitely help out."

The "Not-so-Common Hour" has taken place on campus in the past, and this year all three organizations played a role in bringing

the event back. Justin Reneau, president of Chi Alpha, said he is pleased that teamwork between clubs brought this event here.

"My main focus is to show that the Christian organizations are not segregated," said Reneau. "I wanted to let all the students see us come together."

The band put on a free, full concert that night at Broadmoor Assembly of God, which also partially sponsored the event. Common Ground puts on concerts every Tuesday night for Louisiana Tech students. Those responsible for planning the event said they feel that its purpose was much more than just entertainment.

"My main point is to bring glory to Christ," said Reneau. "I'm not here to entertain you. I want to please Christ."

## Friends' finale concludes decade of 'lucky accidents'



BY RICK PORTER

Zap2it.com (KRT)

Something to ponder as the final episodes of "Friends" make their way onto NBC: Would the show have lasted as long as it did without the Ross-and-Rachel love story?

Hindsight's easy, but "probably not" seems like a safe answer. Yet that romance, which has run through "Friends" for all of its 10 seasons, only happened because of a "lucky accident," co-creator Marta Kauffman says.

"In the initial pitch, there was no Ross-and-Rachel as a romantic entity," says her "Friends" partner, David Crane. "We sort of discovered it when we were doing the pilot."

The history of "Friends," and probably a lot of other enduring shows, is dotted with moments where things just came together. Crane and Kauffman are hard-pressed to explain just what it is about "Friends" that has made it so popular for a decade.

"Whenever people ask us where we are in (the sitcom pantheon), or where we're going to be, it's kind of a daunting question for us," Crane says. "I'd like to hope that years from now, people can look at the reruns and say, 'That's still a really funny show.' If that happens, whatever sort of label they put on it, I'll be thrilled."

Crane and Kauffman, who worked on HBO's "Dream On" for several seasons before creating "Friends," finish one another's sentences like an old married couple (they're not). When they speak, you can also hear a little bit of the characters in their voices: There's a little bit of Chandler in the way Crane says, "It's so not what we focus on," and when Kauffman says Courteney Cox's delivery of Monica's exclamation "I know" cracks her up, she sounds almost exactly like the actress.

If "Friends" broke the sitcom mold in any way, it did so by putting the six principals on equal footing and making them all about the same age. "There was concern at NBC initially that all the characters were right in the same demographic," Crane says. "They pushed for us to add an older character—'Where's Pops who owns the coffee shop?'"

Kauffman also says that thanks to the

cast's unusually strong chemistry, the writing maxim of "show, don't tell" didn't always figure into "Friends."

"You learn when you start writing that you're supposed to always make things dramatic. You don't talk about them," she says. "That wasn't necessarily true for this show. It was always better when we put the six of them together and they talked about something than if you saw it. That was really surprising."

Crane and Kauffman realize that "Friends" fans will come into the series finale on May 6 with their own feelings about the way the show should end. They tried not to think too much about that, though.

"We tried not to focus on how people were going to scrutinize us," Crane says. "That's kind of paralyzing. ... We're certainly aware that people have expectations and are invested in certain things, but ultimately for us, it comes down to, 'OK, what's a story we're proud of and has surprises in it for us?' Then we just hold our breath."

"We really wanted it to be funny—we didn't just want it to be sad," Kauffman adds. "But we also wanted it to be moving. It can be a very tricky line to walk."

They're keeping an eye on smaller details in the final episodes as well. During a recent conference call, a reporter jokingly asked the producers if Central Perk barista Gunther (James Michael Tyler) had any shot of ending up with his long-time crush, Rachel (Jennifer Aniston).

It drew a laugh from Crane, but it's apparently also a plot point in one of the final three episodes. "I don't want to give anything away about the finale, but as you'll see, that's a question we were asking ourselves as well," he says.

One "Friend," Joey (Matt LeBlanc) will continue his TV life in an NBC spin-off next fall. (Kauffman and Crane aren't directly involved in the show, which is being overseen by "Friends" exec producers Kevin Bright, Shana Goldberg-Meehan and Scott Silveri).

As for the rest of the characters, Kauffman and Crane say they tried with the finale to leave them in "a really good place."

"We set out to make it feel as if they were all going to be OK," Kauffman says.



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# Web Bytes:weird sites

BY GISELA GARCIA

KNIGHT RIDDER (KRT)

Gisela Garcia is the entertainment writer for *Blue*, a daily tabloid section of the *Centre Daily Times* in State College, Pa. E-mail her at [ggarcia@centredaily.com](mailto:ggarcia@centredaily.com).

## Rate My Poo

[www.ratemypoo.com](http://www.ratemypoo.com)

Synopsis: You know when you have a huge meal composed of, say, corn and nuts and maybe some saucy baby back ribs and chili and stuff? You know how you go to the bathroom after and the result is something so monstrous and impressive, that you think to yourself, "Man, I wish I had a camera" so you could show the world the magnitude of your turd?

Some people do. And some people have. Welcome to Rate My Poo.com.

I'm pretty immune to gross stuff; I've established that. But if you're queasy when it comes to poop, stay away from this Web site.

Only in America, my friends.

You might be asking yourself how different can each poop be? OK, you're probably really asking yourself why anyone would do this, but that I don't know. To answer the first hypothetical question though, you would not BELIEVE how much caca varies. The texture, the color, the length, whether it's still in solid form, thickness, width and shape ... oh the shapes!

Trust me, this Web site is a

buttload of fun.

Rating: 10 out of 10 bytes

## Pickle Party

[www.pickleparty.com](http://www.pickleparty.com)

Synopsis: What's that you say? You want to send a greeting to your best friend or mom, but you're too cheap to buy stamps or even a card?

You cheap bastard!

I guess for you, only e-cards will do. Although they don't say "I put effort into letting you know I care" like something sent via snail mail does, they do scream "Hey! I might not spend money on you, but I do kind of care a little bit!"

And that's better than nothing, right?

So if you take the e-cards route, let me suggest Pickle Party. This one is definitely one of my favorite Web sites: E-cards for every occasion, but so wild, they would make Howard Stern blush. Yep, these cards are not for the conservative; they're racy and even offensive, making fun of sex, race, disability, religion — you name it.

I'm honestly surprised they haven't been sued yet.

Anyway, these cards are so edgy and bad, I can't even tell you about them in this review.

But if you wouldn't be afraid to send someone "I'D GIVE MY LEFT NUT FOR YOU TO BE MY VALENTINE!" then Pickle Party is right up your alley.

And trust me, that was a tame one. Don't say I didn't warn you!

Rating: 10 out of 10 bytes

# Four years later, nation still split on president

BY HELEN KENNEDY

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS (KRT)

WASHINGTON — Three days before the 2000 election, with George Bush and Al Gore neck and neck, baffled pollster John Zogby tried an experiment.

If you were a citizen of Oz, his analysts asked, would you pick the Scarecrow or the Tin Man for mayor?

Given the choice between a candidate with no brains but heart and one with no heart but brains, respondents returned a remarkable answer: 46.2 percent versus 46.2 percent.

"That told me everything I needed to know: that I wasn't going to know who was going to win this election," Zogby said.

Four years on, perhaps the most surprising thing is that nothing has changed — even after a cataclysmic, unifying event like the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"We are now no different than we were Nov. 8, 2000. It's like 9/11 never happened," he said.

Half the country loves Bush, half the country can't stand him. Some pollsters say the pool of undecided voters is smaller than ever.

"We have not seen this split since the Civil War," Zogby said. "We're at stalemate."

"We had an unparalleled period of national unity after the 9/11 attacks," said Pew Research Center Director Andrew Kohut. "But the way of dealing with the attacks — war in Iraq — became the issue that divided us again."

Not only is the nation divided 50-50, but the electoral college is, too, with a few big liberal states counterbalanced by numerous small conservative states.

Americans are also more hardened in their views now than in recent memory. Demographers and political scientists say they haven't seen an electorate so partisan in 50 years.

The Gallup poll found 91 percent of Re-

publicans approve of the job Bush is doing, while only 17 percent of Democrats agree — the largest gap since Gallup began gauging job approval in 1948.

"This remains a country that is almost evenly divided politically — yet further apart than ever in its political values," a Pew Research Center survey of historical opinion polls concluded.

Pollster Scott Rasmussen said the explosion of media options in the last decade has helped polarize opinion.

Voters seek out compatible news outlets online and on cable — right-wingers to Fox, liberals to CNN.

"We don't listen to opposing views anymore," he said.

That makes for a political chasm that seems unbridgeable.

"You ask Republicans about the economy, they say it's good and getting better. You ask Democrats, they say it's poor and getting worse," Rasmussen said. "They've learned the scripts."

The Pew Research Center estimates the number of swing voters — those who are undecided or only leaning toward one candidate — at about 30 percent.

Zogby's estimate is much smaller: closer to 5 percent.

Such hardened opinions explain why a fearsome surge in casualties in Iraq this month and growing questions about the Bush administration's commitment to fighting terrorism before Sept. 11, 2001, had little influence on recent polls.

It's also why Bush's \$50 million ad blitz failed to demolish Sen. John Kerry and why recent positive economic news hasn't boosted Bush.

"Every now and then a news story breaks that puts one of them ahead for a few days, but it always comes back to the same tie," Rasmussen said.

"After the way things ended four years ago," he said, "everybody is on hold, just waiting for a rematch."

## Have a story idea?

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**SABBATICAL***continued from page 1*

ternate plan in case the original plan is not accomplished. Applicants also have to give biographical data.

According to Dr. Stuart Mills, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs, sabbaticals can be granted for instructors to complete a project, change direction in a field of study and learn up-to-date information about their field of teaching.

Mills is one of several people who review a petition for a sabbatical to make sure that the need is appropriate. If it is not, then they try to find a correct direction and plan of action during the sabbatical. Mills said they try to approve everyone's petition since so few apply. In addition to the provost, the department chair, dean of the college and the chancellor see the petition, and then the final vote goes to the LSU Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Michael Leggiere is one of the faculty members who has been granted a sabbatical leave. Leggiere is a teacher in the history department and the author of two books. He will be spending the fall semester at home finishing his third book, *Napoleon and Blucher: The Franco-Prussian War in France 1814*, and starting his fourth book, *Reinventing War: Prussia's Citizen Soldiers and the Crusade Against Napoleon*.

"I won't be doing any traveling because I did all the research while traveling to Berlin in 2001 and Paris in 2002," said Leggiere.

Leggiere will also be taking care of his new baby during his absence.

"I'll be Mr. Mom," he said.

Another teacher who will be gone this fall is Dr. Adrienne Critcher. During her sabbatical she will be developing a new course that she hopes to bring back to the computer science department. The new class will focus on object-oriented design. Object-oriented programming is a way to develop large software systems, and, according to Critcher, it has gained popularity.

"We want to have a whole course in the computer science department devoted to object-oriented design," said Critcher. "I'll be integrating into the course, software that deals with this technique."

Critcher will return to LSUS for the spring semester.

Also to make sure that the sabbatical is useful to LSUS, the LSUS Handbook states that "acceptance of a sabbatical leave obligates the faculty member to return to the university for at least one year."

Dr. Ronald Byrd is a faculty member who took a sabbatical last spring and is now back at LSUS. He took one trip to Washington, D.C. to do research during his leave, but the rest of his time was spent in Shreveport. At that time his department had purchased new equipment with a grant they received. Byrd spent the time getting this new equipment up and running properly.

According to Mills, between three and five instructors apply for a sabbatical every year. Currently, there are four instructors who will be returning from leave this year. At the completion of the sabbatical, the instructor must complete a report stating what they accomplished.

**PSYCHEDELIC***continued from page 1*

Mollie Schmelzer, technical services coordinator in the Office of Student Activities, said this is the first time LSUS has held an event like this, and she is excited to bring something different to the students.

"This will give students a new experience," said Schmelzer. "We try to bring in a variety of activities. By bringing in the casino games students can play games, win fake money and compete for prizes."

Students will receive fake money chips upon entering the Psychedelic Casino. The person with the most chips at the end of the night will win a \$200 check card. Several other prizes are lined up, including gift certificates for movie tickets, a massage and free food from McAllister's Deli.

Students will also get a chance to make their own tie dyed t-shirts and boxers, for free, today during common hour and also tonight during the event.

Bryan Schmidt, Rec



Sports coordinator, has been working with the SAB to bring in a variety of activities for students.

"After talking with the students, we wanted to offer something for them to participate in and meet people," said Schmidt. He said he believes that this event and the prizes that will go along will be well received by the students.

"A lot of people will be walking home with something," said Schmidt.

The cost of this casino night is over \$5000, not including the cost of the prizes. Schmidt said the SAB and Rec Sports wanted to team up together to reach a wider variety of students.

"It's best to work together since we're the two biggest programs," said Schmidt. "Both programs vary enough that there's a good inclusion of all students."

Schmelzer said the SAB and Rec Sports strive to please the students and are always looking for new ways to increase student participation.

"The largest form of feedback that we have right now is attendance," said Schmelzer.

The Psychedelic Casino will be held tonight from 6-9 p.m. in the UC Ballroom.

**Dead Week Update**

*"The Faculty Senate, at its meeting of March 16, 2004, passed a motion to eliminate Dead Week. The SGA, a partner with the Faculty Senate in implementing Dead Week, asked the Senate to reconsider its recommendation to eliminate Dead Week, and the Senate, at its meeting of April 15, 2004, agreed to reconsider the issue. Because this semester was planned with a Dead Week, because of the present uncertainty, and because PS 2.21 (which defined and implemented Dead Week) has not been rescinded, it seems the best course of action is to finish this semester as planned with a Dead Week. Therefore, PS 2.21 (Dead Week) will remain in effect until the issue of Dead Week has been resolved."*

-Stuart Mills

Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs  
In an e-mail to faculty

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# Jason's Flick Picks

BY JASON LIMERICK

\*\*\*\* Warning....This movie review is intended for mature audiences. It is lacking in moral fiber and may cause dirty thoughts. If you are offended by "naughty" words just go see "A New York Minute."

## 13 going on 30

So I'll admit—I wasn't looking forward to this movie. I'm not a big Jennifer Garner fan. The few flicks she's been in haven't impressed me, and I work nights so I haven't had the pleasure of watching "Alias."

Plus I hate these concept flicks. It's like "ooooohhhh what if this crazy thing happens and this person switches bodies with this person" or "like, what if this guy could hear what pigeons think and he has to save all the pigeons and get the girl?"

I'm all about character-driven stories, and it seems in movies like this it's all concept. Especially this set up—I could totally see the Hollywood suits sitting around a big table and saying, "We need a hit. 'Big' was a good flick, lets remake that." And then the new girl Joan says, "What if it's a girl this time?" and they all gasp at her originality and she gets a couple of extra million this month. Then again, maybe my view is a bit skewed.

Anyway, I was surprised. I liked this movie. I didn't love it, but as I watched, it really grew on me and I think it's because of Jennifer Garner. She is so charming. I mean really, very innocently cute and where I would normally be turned off by doe-eyed renditions of awe that are blatant attempts to get me to fall for an underdeveloped character, I must admit I was taken in. They got me, and I'm a tough nut to crack. I liked Jenna Rink—the 13-year-old turned adult magazine editor and I wanted her to succeed, and that speaks magnitudes for Jennifer Garner's performance. It made me take another look at someone I had previously regarded as a media darling who hadn't earned her fame.

The supporting characters are all funny enough and play their parts well, adding just

enough comedy to keep you laughing. Don't get me wrong—most of the characters are rather two dimensional, and you really don't get a lot of the motivation, but the movie moves along at such a smooth pace that you really don't care. It's a sweet, fun flick that is great for dates. The girls will love it, and the guys won't suffer too much. It's a nice trip while it lasts, but chances are you'll forget it the minute you leave the theater—and that's ok.

★★★★☆

## The Punisher

Well, let's get the comic stuff out of the way first. This is a horrible rendition of a great book and represents one of the many problems I have with Hollywood. If you want to write an action movie about a guy in Florida who shoots a whole lot of bad men because of revenge, go for it. But don't call it "The Punisher," because it's not. I mean, that's cool, just call it "The Revenger" or something. Now, I'm not a guy who has to have everything the same; I'm quite the opposite. You can change whatever you need to because books are not meant to be two-hour flicks—they're not written that way. But this is such a radical departure from the source material that it's hardly recognizable.

"The Punisher" was a small, cerebral story about a man coming back from the horrors of war, whose wife and kids are caught in the crossfires of the evil he thought he had escaped. He responds by doing the only thing he knows how to do—declare war. Not to mention, "The Punisher" is set in New York. This movie is a Caribbean massacre of 37 family members (God, that's ridiculous) that leads to a game of stylish vengeance. Anyway, I'll stop now because I'm here to review the film not to bitch about how bad they screwed up the book.

This is a great example of a big-budget action flick gone wrong. Plenty of explosions and countless deaths—and I was still bored. Well not bored,

as much as in agony. I mean it. This was hard to watch.

Let's see, we'll start with the characters. Thomas Jane did a good job as The Punisher. I mean, he worked with what he had. Other than that, every other character in this flick was a stale cliché with horrible chemistry, pushed along by the worst dialogue this side of the "Young and the Restless." Oh man, the dialogue had to be the worst of it. So many bad lines, so many horrid, unnecessary, unbelievably bad monologues that I thought I'd rather be watching "Gigli." The voice-overs were asinine and dragged the movie's pacing down. The ac-

tion was undermined by a lumbering B-movie score, and every move could be predicted three steps ahead.

It totally ripped any notion of suspense from the screen and left you with a feeling of "so-what?" The acting was almost as bad as the script across the board. I mean, it's bad when the professional wrestler Kevin Nash gives the most entertaining performance (maybe it's because he never says a word). I won't even get into the more ridiculous notions of the movie like Harry Heck, the witchdoctor who can cure a bullet wound to the heart without medicine, or the flaming skull that cheeses up the night.

This was a stinker, but when I tell a lot of people how I felt about this flick, I get a pretty hostile reaction. A lot of folks like this, and I can't figure out why. They say I over analyze things and that I should just enjoy the explosions. I don't know, maybe movies like "Snatch," "The Professional," or "Kill Bill" spoiled me. I guess I expect plot, character development, good dialogue and good direction with my action flicks now.

Anyway, I'd say skip it, but if you read this and think I sound like a movie snob, you might want to check it out.

★☆☆☆☆

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# Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 29

## National Puppetry Day

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Bible Study

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SGA meeting

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Delta Sigma Theta Speaker

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Career Center Fashion Show

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Phi Eta Sigma Meeting

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Psychedelic Casino

7 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Delta Sigma Theta - Crimson and Cream  
Cafe

Friday, April 30

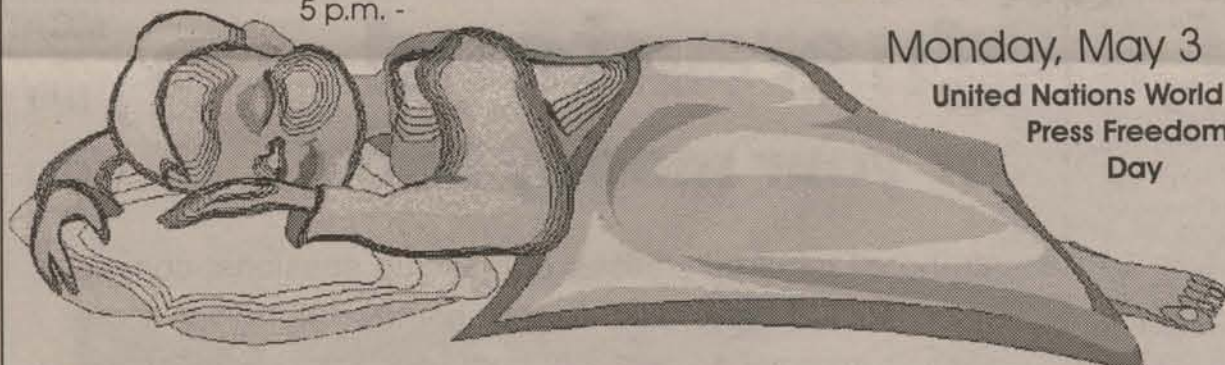
## National Walk Days

## Spank Out Day USA

12 p.m.

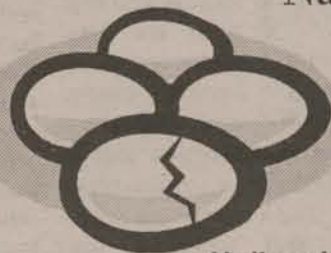
SOC Awards Banquet

5 p.m. -



12 a.m.  
Delta Sigma Theta - TBA  
8 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Phi Mu Composite Pictures  
8 p.m.  
Delta Sigma Theta Play

## May is Better Sleep Month and National Egg Month



Saturday,  
May 1

## National Mother Goose Day

## Save the Rhino Day

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Panhellenic Recruitment Tea

Sunday, May 2

## National Lumpy Rug Day

Monday, May 3

## United Nations World Press Freedom Day

Tuesday, May 4

## International Tuba Day

## National Relationship

## Renewal Day

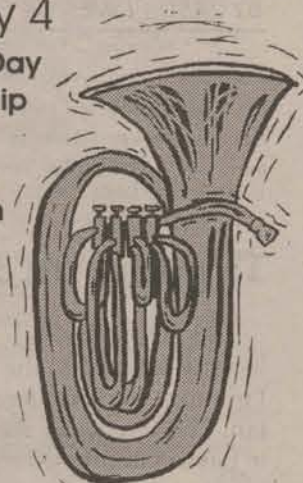
9:30 a.m.

## Video Game Division

## Meeting

10:30 a.m.

## Stress Free Zone



Wednesday, May 5

## Cinco de Mayo

Thursday, May 6

## National No Diet Day

## National Anniversary of the first Postage Stamp

10:30 a.m.

## Stress Free Zone

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

**Mother's Day is May 9th!!**

# HOROSCOPES

BY LINDA C. BLACK

TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES (KRT)

(U-WIRE) To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.



## Aries

(March 21 - April 19)

Today is a 6 -

You're under a lot of pressure to do a good job. Don't try out a new method or procedure quite yet. It still has bugs.



## Taurus

(April 20 - May 20)

Today is a 7 -

Your heart is in the right place, but money may still be a bit tight, perhaps by your own choice. Don't quarrel about what you can buy and when

you can buy it. Set priorities.

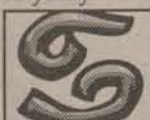


## Gemini

(May 21 - June 21)

Today is a 6 -

The patience mentioned yesterday may be wearing a little thin. If you can talk somebody else into doing a messy job for you, hurrah. It's worth a try, anyway.



## Cancer

(June 22 - July 22)

Today is a 7 -

You're developing a strong support group, and that's important. You inspire them, and they teach you things that help you achieve your goals.



## Leo

(July 23 - Aug. 22)

Today is a 5 - You could be getting tired by now, but the toughest part should be over. You can start to relax. Simply do what you promised and watch the abundance pour in.



## Virgo

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Today is an 8 -

A person who's trying to push you around is in for a big surprise. You can afford to be gracious, but don't be lazy. Move ahead quickly.



## Libra

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Today is a 6 -

Unfortunately, you'll have to choose what you can have and what you must make do with-out. You hate making decisions like this. Maybe you could just

make more money instead.



## Scorpio

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Today is an 8 -

Your enthusiasm is getting more robust, but be careful not to spend more than you can afford. Be generous, not wasteful.



## Sagittarius

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Today is a 5 -

Don't say the first thing that pops into your mind, and advise your partner to show similar restraint. It's not a good time for either of you to make a bold move unless you want to spark a confrontation.



## Capricorn

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Today is an 8 - Finish a big job before you go out and play with new friends. Don't talk much about what you're up to, and save long-distance travel for Sunday.



## Aquarius

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Today is a 5 - You may have to tell your sweetheart, your child or both that you can't buy them goodies right now. Fix up your place first.



## Pisces

(Feb. 19 - March 20)

Today is an 8 - A respected coach may advise you to stop fussing over a whiner. It's OK for you to say "no" every once in a while.